

GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON JUVENILE CORRECTIONS REFORM
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, March 30, 2005
10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections
3rd Floor Conference Room
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS PRESENT

Helene Abrams
Senator Bill Brotherton
Collette Brumbaugh
Nelba Chavez
Lt. Manny Cota
Jan Flaaten
Tim Hardy
Paul Koehler
Rob Lubitz
David McKell
David Miller
Donna Noriega
Judge Anna Montoya-Paez
Judge Emmet Ronan
Beth Rosenberg
Margaret Trujillo
Sherri Walton

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dr. Eric Benjamin
Terry Hance
Pete Hersherberger
Derrick Johnson
Willardene Lewis
Cherie Townsend
Gilbert Veliz

STAFF

Michael Branham
Patti Cordova
Marcella Crane
Oly Cowles
Pat Erickson
Peggy Eggemeyer
Dianne Gadow
Sandra Gonzalez
Lou Goodman
Ana Tomchek

GUESTS

Barry Fine
Holly Orozco
Russ Van Vleet

I. Welcome and Review of Minutes

Judge Emmet Ronan, Chair of the Governor's Task Force on Juvenile Corrections Reform, called the meeting to order.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the January 18, 2005 meeting. A correction was made to the location of the meeting (Maricopa County Juvenile Court Center – Durango instead of the Arizona State Capitol). The minutes were then seconded and approved.

II. Juvenile Corrections Update

Director Michael Branham welcomed Mr. Russ Van Vleet to the Task Force meeting. Mr. Van Vleet provided opening remarks.

III. CRIPA Monitoring Report-out

Mr. Russ Van Vleet gave a synopsis of the CRIPA Consultant's first monitoring report due to the Department of Justice on March 15, 2005. Mr. Van Vleet continues to be optimistic with the Department's reform efforts. Out of 136 remedial measures itemized in the agreement, ADJC was in substantial compliance with 23 measures and in partial

compliance with 91 measures. Overall the consultants were impressed with the many improvements that had taken place, including the renovation of rooms to make them suicide resistant. Specific areas discussed by Mr. Van Vleet include:

Suicide Prevention:

- Suicide training needs to be improved
- The issue of room confinement, and its contribution to successful suicides, needs to be carefully reviewed
- The discussion of recent suicides in ADJC needs to be included in all future staff training
- Records not received by ADJC from Superior Courts and Juvenile Detention Centers in a timely fashion
- Files did not always contain necessary health care information
- Need to integrate the medical and mental health files
- Need bevel down hinges for each room
- Need to remove physical plant hazards from bathroom and shower areas
- Need to approve and implement policy requiring that staff carry a rescue kit pouch
- Close circuit television is a supplement, not a replacement, for staff physical checks
- CPR certification of staff needs to be verified
- Need to increase compliance rates for medical and education personnel in CPR and extraction knife training

Juvenile Justice:

- Grievance procedure improved with grievances now being tracked with five day limit for resolution
- Grievance resolution meetings now include the Youth Right Specialists
- Handbook not yet available, important that it be completed and included in orientation
- Development of the Inspections and Investigations Unit; Increase from 5 to 20 staff
- Early Warning System
- Cottage management training needs to be enhanced
- Referrals to Child Protective Services needs to be better understood and reviewed
- Physical plant modifications recommended at CMS in the Health Unit
- The connection between serious incidents and medical treatment will need to be more thoroughly reviewed during the next reporting period
- Need to implement post-training competency testing for all staff
- Need to increase direct care staff by at least 49 positions in order to meet minimum staffing ratios adopted by ADJC and recommended by accreditation bodies and best practice. This allows for coverage during staff training
- Need to continue to replace cottages that do not have toilet facilities in each room with new or remodeled cottages that have this feature
- Continue to track all incident reports for resolution and corrective action plans
- The use of separation in whatever form needs to be more thoroughly reviewed
- During January, no youth was held longer than five days. 95% of youth held 24 hours or less
- Use of separation by staff for exclusion purposes needs further review

Education:

- Need to continue to attract and retain special education teachers
- Need to continue working with the Arizona Department of Education on corrective action plans and on identifying special education youth
- Need to involve mental health, health and custody professionals in the development of IEPs
- The curriculum needs to be revised and electives added
- Need to increase family participation in IEPs
- ADJC will need additional teachers
- ADJC needs additional psychologists at the schools

Medical:

- Female medical staff should do all pap smears in the future
- ADJC needs 24 hour nurse coverage
- Additional nurses will be needed in order to meet the coverage requirement
- An infirmary is needed at each facility

Mental Health Care:

- The mental health program needs to be stratified with an emphasis on supervision and certification
- There needs to be specific training requirements for those providing mental health services
- A psychologist needs to be consulting with each cottage that has special needs
- There is a need for more Psych. Associates
- Need to increase staff with certification in A&D treatment
- Need to increase bilingual therapists
- Need to increase documentation of mental health services
- Currently only about 15% of a therapist's time is spent in direct provision of treatment. This needs to be improved
- A physician needs to assess a child in restraint at least every two hours
- Review the possibility of consolidating all intake at the reception and classification center (RAC)
- Need to improve access to mental health records from referring agencies
- Only a medical doctor (Psychiatrist) should determine hospitalization for any youth
- Need to emphasize transition planning
- Protocols for medical lab work needs to be developed

IV. ADJC Community Corrections

William "Oly" Cowles, Program Administrator for Community Corrections, gave a presentation on the responsibilities of his division. The goal of Community Corrections is to provide a continuum of services so that youth can obtain the skills, tools, and support they need to be successful, law-abiding citizens in the community.

The Community Corrections Division:

- Consists of Case Management, Community Based Services, and Transition into the Community
- Has three Community Resource Centers (parole offices) established in Maricopa and one established Pima County which provides parole supervision, case management, education transition, family services, co-located RSA counselors, and parole schools. Other parole offices in the outlying counties are also established, with Parole Officers living in those communities
- Oversees the Re-entry Initiative, a federal grant awarded in 2002 by the Department of Justice and other federal collaborators. The Initiative consists of three phases for ADJC youth - institution based programs, transition services, and long term support for youth. The four counties that currently have a Reentry Specialist are Cochise, Mohave, Pinal, and Yuma. It is anticipated that additional sources of funding will be sought to sustain and expand the Reentry Initiative in the 11 remaining counties
- Participates in Interstate Compact, which provides supervision and services to juveniles that are on "interstate" movement status

The Community Services Unit:

- ❖ Develops an array of services for youth and families
- ❖ Monitors and coordinates services for youth and families with contracted providers
- ❖ Builds and maintains partnerships with other states agencies (DES, DHS, AHCCCS, ADE), county juvenile courts and probation, workforce development sites, and schools and colleges
- ❖ Trains staff on the implementation of best practice models, such as Risk and Protective Factors, Functional Family Therapy, and Multi-Systemic Therapy

Community Corrections has several new initiatives that are currently being addressed:

- ❖ Youth Work Program where parole youth will complete a community service project, earn restitution, and learn job skills.
- ❖ Youth Wild Land Fire Program
- ❖ Expand our partnerships with stakeholders
- ❖ Strengthen our relationships with the courts
- ❖ Specialized case loads for Parole Officers

V. Utah Site Visit Update

Judge Emmet Ronan, Director Michael Branham, Inspector Bill Dorman and Adobe Mountain Superintendent Joe Jericho visited the Utah Department of Human Services, Division of Juvenile Justice Services on March 14-15. Director Blake Chard and his staff facilitated a tour for the AZ delegation which allowed them to learn about their juvenile detention and juvenile correctional system. The tour consisted of seeing the Decker Lake Youth Center, meeting with Granite School youth and teaching staff, a tour of Wasatch Youth Center, and meetings with secure care treatment staff and parole staff.

VI. Subcommittee Update

The Policy Subcommittee has currently been meeting and various policies/procedures have been discussed. At the next scheduled meeting, it is anticipated that the ADJC Policy Unit staff will have available the newly revised suicide prevention policy/procedure for the subcommittee's review. With the departure of Leslie Schwalbe from DHS/BHS, Margaret Trujillo volunteered to Chair the Policy Subcommittee. Discussion took place regarding the other subcommittees and whether staff support from the Governor's Office to help organize the meetings would be available.

VII. Public Comment

No public comment was made at this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned by Judge Emmet Ronan, Chair.

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